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Story and pictures by Sgt. Roy Henry



When the Georgia Army National Guard spends a summer conducting annual two weeks of training in the piney woods, sand and swampland of Fort Stewart near Savannah it's not the training that's the real story.

Sure the training is important; especially this year with Georgia's 48th Enhanced Brigade gearing up for its rotation in 2005 to the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. And before it reaches the NTC, the brigade will have to participate in a Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRE) next year at Fort Riley, Kan.



And yes, this year's training exercise which ultimately leads the Brigade to the NTC was a grueling and aggressive test of the 48th's ability to stand in for an active-duty brigade as it transforms to the new Army doctrine of being a lighter, more mobile force.

But more important than the training are the soldiers who fill the 48th Brigade's ranks. The important stories are the infantryman who teaches at the local high school, or the mechanic who fixes tanks but who attends school full-time studying accounting. And it's about soldiers who perform administrative duties such as making sure their fellow Guardsmen have their personal and financial affairs in order, have up-to-date identification cards and medical records.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Conley, a platoon leader with Co. A, 1st Bn., 121st Infantry, conducts a battle briefing during annual training at Fort Stewart.

Some of the personalities chronicled this year by journalists of the 124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment include:

· Michael Conley, a sergeant first class with Lawrenceville's Company A, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment. Conley, who lives in Canton, teaches chemistry and physics at Dunwoody's Brandon Hall High School. He also uses his experiences as a Vietnam veteran with the Army's 101st Airborne Division to teach his soldiers how to survive in the field.

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Commander's Corner

Soldiers, Civilians and Family Members,

More than 133,000 Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers are deployed worldwide. Any deployable unit – Active or Reserve Component – can be called to serve in a combat zone. We must keep this in mind as we train soldiers. All of you have been doing a magnificent job as you work under the strenuous and changing conditions of our current operational environment. We are already busily engaged in a summer filled with activities. As I have traveled throughout the command, these are only some of the missions I observed:

- The 4th Brigade, 78th Division (TS) provided superb training support to the National Training Center rotation of the 30th Enhanced Separate Brigade of the North Carolina National Guard. More than 5,000 Tarheel soldiers and airmen, along with others from a dozen supporting states, were tested in the world's most intense mechanized combat training. The 30th Brigade is the first National Guard brigade selected to rotate to Iraq.
- The 5th Brigade, 87th Division (TS) is preparing 2,300 Pennsylvania guardsmen from the 56th Brigade, 28th Infantry Division for KFOR5A, the Kosovo peacekeeping mission. In the near future, the 56th Brigade will also become the first National Guard unit to transition to being a Stryker brigade.
- The 2d and 5th Brigades, 78th Division (TS) are training military police and infantry soldiers at Fort Dix, prior to their deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
- Col. Zanol, commander of the 4th Brigade, 85th Division (TS), and 15 of his trainers are deployed to Jordan to provide brigade-level training support to the Jordanian Army for Mission Eager Light.
- We have finished our transition from Noble Eagle II to Noble Eagle III, the force protection mission involving Army and Air Force bases in our half of the nation. There are 9,000 mobilized soldiers engaged in this mission in the First Army area. They are under the command and control of the 218th Enhanced Separate Brigade, an activated headquarters from the South Carolina National Guard.
- First Army's Warfighter Division has coached the leadership and staff of the 34th Infantry Division as they and 1,400 of the division's Minnesota guardsmen prepare for deployment in support of the SFOR 14 Bosnia peacekeeping mission. The Warfighter Division also accompanied them to their final validation exercise prior to deployment to Bosnia at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

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- The Warfighter Division also observed and controlled the leadership and staff of the 29th Infantry Division (Light) in their Warfighter Exercise at Fort Leavenworth, the culmination of more than a year of training and preparation. More than 160 First Army soldiers and civilians were involved in the recent hurricane exercise, HURREX-03. In this exercise we tested our systems and abilities to interact during such a natural disaster emergency. HURREX-03 involved our crisis action team, a forward element from the First Army headquarters, three defense coordinating elements, and emergency preparedness liaison officers, as well as federal and state emergency management representatives. We cannot overstate the value of such preparedness as we continue to move through this year's hurricane season.
- Our Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Division is providing lanes training and external evaluations to Civil Support Teams throughout the First Army area. These National Guard chemical, biological and radiological detection teams play a vital role in our homeland security mission.
- Annual training never stops, though at times it's schedules may be adjusted in response to the demands of contingency operations. The 3rd Brigade, 87th Division (TS) recently trained nearly 3,000 Mississippi Guardsmen from the 155th Armored Brigade at Camp Shelby. Though the number of TAMS and lanes may vary due to ongoing contingency operations, the quality of annual training provided remains constantly high.

Much more is being done than can be reflected in these few short paragraphs. I have tried to highlight just a few of the activities. As you can see, a broad range of missions and an intense OPTEMPO continue to dominate all we do here at First U.S. Army. We must never lose sight of our ultimate goal -- the trained soldier, prepared and ready for any contingency. I urge you to remain focused on demobilization with the same intensity and momentum that you displayed during mobilization. Take nothing for granted, remain vigilant, and generously share what you learn.

I sincerely thank each of you for your dedication and outstanding efforts. You make a real difference to our Nation. Take care of your families and remember keep safety in the forefront.

Lt. General Joseph R. Inge
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**Command Sgt. Maj.
Jeffrey J. Mellinger**

In 1979, I attended and graduated from the Fort Jackson, South Carolina Drill Sergeant School. It was interesting for me to reflect on my graduation from Drill Sergeant School, and my subsequent service as a Drill Sergeant. For you see, I was drafted, and did not ask to be a drill sergeant.

Two years and nine training cycles later, I came to appreciate the opportunity to serve as a Drill Sergeant. We trained male and female soldiers in straight basic training, one-station-unit-training (OSUT - soldiers came to one unit for their basic training, followed by several different AITs in the same unit), and one-station-training (OST - same unit for basic and AIT). We had plenty of leadership challenges, from the abundance of Category IVs (those soldiers you had to watch lest they wander off) to drug and racial problems. But the Army was changing, and I was changing with it. During my first cycle, I was struggling with figuring out the "best" way to train and motivate soldiers, as well as how to get the most from myself. Mostly, I just wondered how I was going to get through two years of being a drill sergeant. During the second cycle, I became more comfortable with what I was doing, and more sure of how to turn civilians into soldiers. And by the third cycle, I was cruising right along, confident and sure of myself and the soldiers I was producing.

And so I say to you as new Drill Sergeants, take your time to learn about yourself and your best techniques. Take what you've learned at this school, and make it work for you. Watch your peers and learn from them - improve on the good and not so good. With each passing day, improve on your technique, and help others along their way as well. Learn from and look out for each other.

I think to a great extent, being a drill sergeant shaped me as a soldier and leader, for it taught me much more about myself than I would have learned otherwise. And so it will be with you - you will be thankful you had the opportunity to be the one to shape and mold so many young Americans into soldiers. And how important is all of the drill you will teach? General Patton said, "Combat experience has proven that ceremonies, such as formal guard mounts, formal retreat formations, and regular supervised reveille formations, are a great help, and, in some cases, essential, to prepare men and officers for battle, to give them that perfect discipline, that smartness of appearance, that alertness without which battles cannot be won."

Recent combat experiences continue to validate that soldiers will fight exactly as they train - good or bad. It is too late to teach them skills when it really matters, so train them

them well now, when you have the chance. And reinforce that training at every opportunity, for it is the sustainment of tasks, conditions, performance measures and standards that keep soldiers performing as we intended. When you train soldiers, safety must be considered in all we do, but not as an aside. Training done to standard is safe training. Thucydides, writing in 404 BC of the Spartans at the Battle of Mantinea (418 BC), "For they had learned that true safety was to be found in long previous training, and not in eloquent exhortations uttered when they were going into action."

It is not enough to simply put forth training, and to discipline soldiers. You must also daily guide, coach, cheer, mentor, and treat each soldier as though they were your son or daughter, brother or sister. And you must look to each as though they were the future, your future, as they really are. You must be firm but fair, and spend more time rewarding than punishing, for rewards produce the longest lasting changes in behavior. General SLA Marshall said in 1947, "War is much too brutal a business to have room for brutal leading; in the end, its only effect can be to corrode the character of men, and when character is lost, all is lost. The bully and the sadist serve only to further encumber an army; their subordinates must waste precious time clearing away the wreckage that they make. The good company has no place for an officer who would rather be right than loved, for the time will quickly come when he walks alone, and in battle no man may succeed in solitude." And when you correct or admonish, do so normally only to the offenders, as mass punishment will alienate you and make you less effective as a leader.

Each soldier requires different approaches and techniques, according to their aptitude and ability. If soldiers who perform to standard and one who fails are treated the same, the soldiers who do well may come to wonder why they bother.

"This We'll Defend." The motto of the Drill Sergeant. Take this charge seriously each and every day. For as we hear frequently, we are a nation at war. And the soldiers you train today will be at your side and on your left and right in about two years as you come off "the trail". How will you want them to be? How will you want them to remember you and their basic training? Train them well.

Reach out, touch someone through VTC

By Sgt. Akilah C. Clarke

Deployed soldiers of 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) have been keeping in touch with their friends and family back home through the use of the division's video teleconference system.

Having been deployed for several months now, soldiers are getting their first opportunity to actually "see" how well things are going back home, according to Maj. Gen. Buford Blount, 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) commanding general.

"I'm just glad we can provide this service to the soldiers. It gives them an opportunity to alleviate some of the worries they have had about their families, and vice versa," Blount said. "So far, we've had about three or four fathers see their newborns for the first time."

Getting the system up and operational took about three weeks, and required a lot of time and dedication from a number of personnel, Blount said.

Overall, the effort was worth it, said Maj. Denton Knapp, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry's executive officer.

"These soldiers have been working hard 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and although their minds are focused on the mission at hand, they are still thinking about home," said Knapp, a Gillette, Wyo., native.

Knapp pointed out that although soldiers have kept in contact through mail, coupled with periodic opportunities to use phones and email, "the VTC is a wonderful vehicle to provide soldiers an opportunity to see and speak with their loved ones.

"To be able to see someone on the other end, that's as close as you can get to being there," Knapp said. Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Oggs' soldiers recently used the VTC. Oggs, Task Force 4-64 Armor's command sergeant major, said the soldiers truly appreciated having an opportunity to not only talk to, but also see their family and friends.

"To see their loved ones who they haven't seen in more than seven months is a great thing," said Oggs, from Sweetwater, Tenn. "I'll go to any lengths to do what we can to boost the soldiers' morale. The soldiers had to travel an hour from Fallujah to use the VTC, but it was worth it."

Sgt. Adam Pena, a track mechanic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Bn., 15th Inf., got an opportunity to see his wife, Isabell, during his five-

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-minute VTC session. The two last communicated by phone five weeks before Pena's unit left for Fallujah.

"I'm glad to be able to see her - it was definitely worth it," said Pena, a Lubbock, Texas native. "I think (the VTC) it is kind of neat. It helps morale a lot."

Coordination plays a key role in ensuring as many soldiers as possible get the opportunity to use the system, according to Staff Sgt. John Michel, a signal specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 123rd Signal Battalion.

Michel, from Cincinnati, Ohio, operates the video teleconferencing equipment and helps unit representatives quickly resolve any scheduling problems that could possibly come up.

"Time slots are pre-determined and assigned to the units. Soldiers get five to 10 minutes each, depending on how many personnel sign up," he said. Unit representatives are appointed to stay in contact with family readiness groups in the rear, to ensure soldiers and family are notified of the unit's scheduled time, according to Michel.

A lot of work takes place behind the scenes to keep the VTC operating on schedule, Michel said. In order to receive a satellite signal in Iraq, the signal must go through four different stations, or 'hops' - two in Germany, and two in the U.S.

"It takes a lot of coordination at each 'hop' to get the signal through at the right time," Michel said. "Sometimes the network timing is off on one end, so all the stations have to work together to remedy that problem."

In all, the success of the VTC took a coordinated effort from a number of people, to include 1st Armored Division, who provided the equipment, Michel said.

While working with his unit representative to schedule his time, one soldier summed the experience up in just a few words.

"Five minutes is better than nothing at all."

Old Soldier' reflects on All-Volunteer Force

By Alfonso Lopez

As the nation enters its 30th year of having an All-Volunteer Force, one "Old Soldier" remembers it from the beginning.

The draft ended July 1, 1973, but planning for establishment of the All-Volunteer Force actually began two years earlier. Retired Sgt. Maj. Raymond J. Moran, known as the "Old Soldier," was at a conference in 1971 when the decision to end the draft was announced.

Moran was one of three sergeants major present at the Chamberlain Hotel, Fort Monroe, Va., where the announcement of the All-Volunteer Force was made. The three were in a room full of generals and admirals representing each military branch.

The military officials were skeptical, to say the very least, Moran said.

After Deputy Secretary of Defense David Packard made the announcement, all those present immediately began asking questions. Their concern was lack of resources, mainly that there were not enough recruiters and recruiting stations.

Packard responded, "You're getting whatever you need ... get it done."

The All-Volunteer Force was originally Operation VOLAR, Volunteer Army. At the time, in October 1971, Maj. Gen. Donald McGovern was commanding general of U.S. Army recruiting command. The project took almost two years to develop until turning into the All-Volunteer Force in 1973.

Lt. Gen. John Q. Henion took over after McGovern and "implemented, mentored and nurtured [the program] along," said Moran.

Desert Storm served as the proving grounds for the All-Volunteer Force, Moran said. He said the success of the war showed the potential of the new military.

"Every soldier served with personal pride...they were there willingly, with a winning attitude," said Moran.

Moran still serves as an Army Reserve recruiter at Fort Meade, Md. He has been a part of the Army for more than 55 years. He enlisted on Sept. 17, 1948 and retired in 1978, but has worked in a civilian capacity as a Reserve recruiter since 1979.

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Being a recruiter, Moran has had a first-hand account of the volunteer enlistment: "We're getting more re-enlistments today than we had in the history of our great United States Army for 228 years."

The problem with the draft was not the draftee; it was the system that was flawed, said Moran. "Its got to be fair...there was no trust in the old Selective Service Act."

People could avoid the draft by having several children or going to college, said Moran. This created an inequality among those who must join, he said.

Today, Moran said, "Every young man or woman, rich or poor, has a chance to serve their country with personal pride."

"Our nation will always have the right people," Moran said. However, if a draft ever becomes necessary, then the nation, "will have to do what it has to do."

Regardless of how soldiers entered the Army, Moran holds them all in high esteem for serving.

"Americans drafted or enlisted, who served their great nation and loved their Army, they were great," Moran said, "...they were there for the red, white, and blue."

CRITICAL DAYS OF SUMMER



HEAT STROKE

Treatment

- Lower the victim's body temperature as fast as possible
- Don't give liquids to unconscious victims



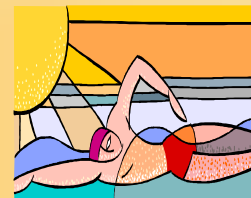
Other tips for controlling heat stress

- Allow your body to become acclimatized to your surroundings
- Follow scheduled work/rest cycles to avoid overexertion
- Drink 5-7 ounces of cool water every 15 minutes
- Consume a light, cool lunch instead of hot, heavy meals

Dealing with Heat Stress

Swimming

- Swim only in designated swimming areas
- Swim with a buddy!! - Never swim alone
- Know your swimming ability
- Check water before diving
- Hypothermia - cold water draws body heat



Badge of Courage

By Spc. Matt Benedetti and Spc. David Claffey, Massachusetts National Guard Public Affairs

The true test of a soldier's heart is found in his performance under fire. The next best alternative may be the 26th Infantry Brigade's Expert Infantry Badge Competition at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts.

Seventy-nine soldiers from the 104th, 182nd, 181st and 102nd Infantry Regiments took part in the EIB qualifications during their Annual Training, with only 12 completing the rigorous test. Guard members had to complete 35 infantry tasks with almost no margin for error, then trek up and down the Cape Cod Canal on a 12-mile road march with a rucksack strapped to their back.

"Almost everything in the Army focuses on teamwork, but the EIB is more about the individual," said Spc. Wayne Turley, the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical station scorer. "Not only does a person have to want it, but he has to work hard to get it."

While units do train the soldiers weeks prior to qualification, success depends on the individual's ability to perform under pressure.

"Everyone stresses when it comes to the EIB," said Sgt. Tim Forrester, Supply Sergeant for D Company, 1st battalion, 182nd Infantry. "Unfortunately, the stress is usually self-created. Guys beat themselves up if they don't pass, but there is no shame in not getting it the first time."

Forrester, the scorer for M60 Range Card station, knows what it is like to be in the testing soldier's shoes. He was unable to earn the badge in his first attempt, but like many soldiers, the experience helped him prepare for subsequent tries.

"The EIB is more mental than physical," said Sgt. Michael Aparicio, who earned his badge while serving in Korea and is now with the 102nd. "There is a lot of memorization, and the sequences have to be precise." Guard members are also at a disadvantage because training happens once a month instead of all year like the active-duty soldiers.

Over a four-day span, soldiers qualified on a variety of weapon tasks from activating a Claymore mine to taking apart and assembling an M60 machine gun. The training culminated in a 12-mile road march with a 60-pound rucksack that guardmembers had to complete in less than three hours.

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Securing a landmine is a delicate process and Sgt. Jason Civello from C Company of the 104th Infantry Regiment is very aware of that fact. This task, along with 35 others was part of the 26th Infantry Brigade's Expert Infantry Badge qualification. (Photo by Spc. David Claffey, Massachusetts National Guard)

"This process is so grueling," said Aparicio, "but even if a guy doesn't pass, it is some of the best training they can get. You have to know each task in and out, or else you done."

Soldiers weren't left in the dark though. Units spent the first half of their AT training for the test.

"Instructors gave us extra attention and made sure we were squared away," said Spc. Jarred Hakala of Templeton. Hakala was one of 12 to earn the EIB and felt the experience would be helpful in preparation for deployment or elite infantry schools.

All participating soldiers were highly motivated - a testament to the innovative training methods employed by Guard instructors.

"They did a great job," said 1st Lt. Michael Murphy of Somerville, who was pleased with the performance of the candidates. "Training and performance continues to improve. Everyone benefits from this type of course. Even if they do not get the badge, they reacquaint themselves with a whole range of infantry tasks."

Badge or no badge, the soldiers are trained to be the best. With the number of deployments recently, the training will help the 26th Infantry Brigade and the Massachusetts National Guard stay prepared for any mission.

Special Forces make history with parachute mission over Florida

By Lt. Col. Ron Tittle
Florida National Guard Public Affairs

The skies over Camp Blanding's Weinberg range in north Florida began to darken and the wind picked up to 12 knots as a C-17 Globemaster appeared almost out of nowhere ... engines whining and coming into view through the trees.



Suddenly, out popped two human figures, from the doors of the aircraft soaring above a thousand feet. Almost as soon as the figures entered the windy air-space, canopy

parachutes opened and the figures seemed to float in space.

History was made twice as members of the 3rd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group from the Florida and Virginia Army National Guards began annual training. It was the first time a C-17 dropped parachutists over Camp Blanding and first time the Florida and Virginia units reassembled for training after their combat mission together in Afghanistan.

Brig. Gen. John Holechek, commander of one of the Florida Army National Guard's major commands, 83rd Troop Command, watched diligently as the Special Forces soldiers exited the aircraft and made safe landings.

This will be the first time these units have been back together since serving about a year in Afghanistan, commented Holechek. They'll join the battalion for annual training here at Camp Blanding as other Florida Army National Guard units report.

There will be more than 2,000 Florida National Guard soldiers beginning their tactical training during a two-week period. It was appropriate for the Special Forces to drop in as the rest of the soldiers drudge the roadways in convoys across the state.

It sort of reminds you how the Special Forces troops operate. They're not in the public eye and had it not been

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for a few people, including a media reporter, no one would have known what they were up to. Of course, these troops like it that way.

How about the thrill of jumping in? Capt Kevin Holiday has been jumping for 20 years with about 145 jumps, and seems to enjoy the thrill each time. He made a near-perfect landing, almost in front of the observers.

"I have a lot of time under the canopy," stated Holiday. "Paratroopers don't want to walk. They're gonna use that wind to try to get as close to the drop where they're gonna put their parachutes as they can. Today the winds are perfect, they're coming right to you so I basically did a couple of maneuvers ... crabbing and then I ran with the wind, and then as I got close to the ground I had to turn into the wind.

Safety is paramount. A good jump is a safe jump reiterated Holiday. "The majority of our training surrounds safe jumps ... six hours prior we go through a lot of safety."

Back at the main operational area at Camp Blanding, convoys of vehicles made their way onto the sprawling post. The refueling point was a popular location as vehicles lined up about 50 deep. Safety was important here also.

Two Florida Army National Guard Specialists - John Killinger and Dawn Dubay, both of C Medical, 53rd Support Battalion, ensured their intersection of DeFuniak Springs and D Avenue remained safe. In spite of the pouring rain, these specialists took their job seriously. "We make sure the convoys stay together and provide a safety watch", said Killinger. They know they're in for a long night as convoys of vehicles throughout the state zero in on Camp Blanding for the beginning of annual training.

No doubt, all of these troops take their job seriously ... especially knowing approximately 2,200 of their comrades from Florida are currently serving in harms way in Iraq and Kuwait. Annual training will not be the same.

Readiness_



Arabic-Speaking soldier spends free time teaching fellow troops

By Staff Sgt. Ward T. Gros

Soldiers in Kuwait have started studying Arabic twice a week thanks to a fellow American soldier who grew up speaking Arabic in Alexandria, Egypt.

Spc. Suzan Oliver spends Tuesday and Thursday afternoons teaching Arabic to soldiers assigned to the Port of Shuaiba.



U.S. Army Spc. Suzan Oliver prepares to teach Arabic at the Port of Shuaiba. She is assigned to the 143rd Transportation Command and works in civil affairs. U.S. Army photo

"They seem very interested," Oliver said of her students. "The whole class is pretty responsive."

The specialist, who speaks seven different Arabic dialects,

deployed to Kuwait as a crane operator with the 11th Transportation Battalion from Fort Story, Va. She extended her deployment to work as a member of the 143rd Transportation Command's civil affairs/G-5 office. She said she wanted to be a linguist when she joined the Army, but that required a security clearance that she couldn't get at the time because she was not an American citizen. She took the Defense Language Proficiency Test as soon as she could and received the skill identifier for Arabic linguist, for which she receives extra pay.

Her father had a distinguished career working with the United Nations; some of her brothers and sisters work for humanitarian relief agencies in Africa; and now she finds herself working in a similar field. Born in Khartoum, Sudan, Oliver has since applied for American citizenship and has her naturalization papers waiting at Norfolk, Va. She took her citizenship oath while home on leave in March. "I'm an American now," she said. "It's not easy to get citizenship, between what you have to study, what you have to know and the events since Sept. 11th. I consider myself lucky."

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Oliver joined the Army after living with one of her sisters in Virginia. The ninth of 12 siblings, she is the only one to enlist in the Army. "My family says I'm the crazy one," she said. Oliver says her friends from 11th Trans. said she was crazy for extending her tour in Kuwait, but she finds the experience she is gaining as a linguist dealing with Kuwait officials worth it. "I spend most of my time with port passes, verifying nationalities, and filling out forms in Arabic," Oliver said. Her other duties with civil affairs range from answering the phone in Arabic to translating for generals and sheiks, such as Sheik Dr. Subah Al-Jaber Al-Subah.

"Meeting the Sheik of Sabah is definitely the highlight of my being here," she said. Second to that would be translating for Brig. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, deputy commander of the 377th Theater Support Command and commander of the 143rd TRANSCOM (Forward).

"She has been a great asset to this office," said Sgt. 1st Class George McGill, noncommissioned officer in charge of G-5. "She has helped out with identifying nationalities for passports and has helped screen applicants. After we review them, we pass them on to Kuwaiti officials. She's very accurate."

McGill also said that Oliver assists when Kuwaiti and other local officials visit. Official visitors often start speaking English but turn to Arabic when discussions become more complicated. "When she's here, there's no misunderstanding," McGill said.

Oliver takes cultural differences into account when translating. She particularly looks out for proper word choice and the American need for being direct. "Some words don't transfer the same from English to Arabic," she said. "To translate something from English might sound like a direct order, which might offend the Kuwaitis," she explained. "Arabic culture is very indirect as far as conversation or requests. It is not as straightforward as saying 'This is what I want.' When you do that it's very offensive. It takes 15 to 20 minutes of greetings and side talk before you get to the main conversation."

Although Oliver speaks seven different dialects of Arabic, "my Egyptian dialect always overtakes the dialect I'm speaking," she said. In addition to the slight differences in dialect and word choice, there is a greater difference between Egyptian and Kuwaiti culture.

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Super Soldiers

By Otis Port

New materials and technologies could boost the mobility and safety of U.S. troops

The U.S. Army wants to turn G.I. Joes and Janes into superheroes right out of Hollywood. In the 1987 film *Predator*, Arnold Schwarzenegger played an Army commando battling an alien in a suit that rendered it invisible. The film got mixed reviews, but the Army hopes its so-called Future Warrior outfit will be a smash on the battlefield. "With a uniform like *Predator*'s, our soldiers would really have a lopsided advantage," says Jean-Louis "Dutch" De Gay, a systems engineer at the Army's Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass.

The black battle garb planned for the late 2010s looks scary enough when you can see it, but invisible soldiers would be a lot scarier. No joke. Scientists at DuPont (DD) Co. are already hunting for ways to manipulate light so soldiers could appear to disappear. And if that doesn't pan out, EIC Laboratories Inc. in Norwood, Mass., is working on "electro-chromic camouflage" -- a chameleon fabric that would change colors instantly to blend in with its surroundings.

Research on such concealment methods is classified. However, at the new Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, scientists are free to talk about the combat gear they're designing. And soldiers aren't the only ones they aim to help. Their work also could help protect firefighters, police officers, and other emergency responders -- with self-administering tourniquets, lightweight body armor, and artificial muscles. MIT President Charles M. Vest didn't want to "get tangled up in classified research," so he insisted that all developments spawned on campus be available to industry as well as the military.

The MIT center, which opened in late May, was launched with a \$50 million, five-year grant from the Army. The budget was doubled by matching funds from MIT and a dozen industrial partners, including Raytheon, Dow Corning, and DuPont. The companies signed up to tap MIT's expertise in nanotechnology -- creating new materials and devices molecule by molecule, instead of fabricating them from bulk materials. Materials engineered with such ingredients as carbon nanotubes can have properties that are otherwise impossible to achieve. As a result, says De Gay, "science fiction is rapidly becoming reality -- and that could change forever the way wars are fought."

One concept for "smart" body armor would weave thin pads or even cloth from fibers that can sense the impact of a bullet or shrapnel and automatically stiffen,

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becoming even more impenetrable than the cumbersome ceramic-plate armor troops wear now. Another major goal is cloth that eliminates the need for ungainly biochemical-warfare suits. Instead, regular uniform fabric may sport nano-size umbrellas that open to seal the cloth's pores, making it impervious to airborne chemicals and pathogens. In both cases, a key objective is to take a load off soldiers' backs. Today, they lug 60 pounds or more into battle, depending upon which weapon they carry, and the so-called marching load is almost twice as heavy. In five years, the Army wants to trim the combat load to 40 pounds, and then to 15 pounds with the Future Warrior outfit. MIT's Vest predicts that armored vests, which weigh 28 pounds now, will end up "at around eight pounds, maybe even five." Artificial muscles that could enable soldiers to leap tall walls, if not buildings, are in the works, too. One candidate is made from polypyrrole. It flexes when jolted by electricity, then relaxes when the juice is turned off. So far, though, its reactions are much too slow.

Even with the best armor, wounds are inevitable. So when a soldier is hit in an arm or leg, special fibers in the uniform would constrict into a tourniquet. This will be a real life-saver, because half of all battlefield deaths are due to massive blood loss before wounded soldiers can be treated. In addition, sensors would provide the soldier's vital signs and location to medics via radio. Until the Future Warrior garment is ready, soldiers will wear an adhesive chest patch fitted with sensors and a tiny radio. It's being developed by MIT partner CIMIT (Center for Integration of Medicine & Innovative Technology) in Cambridge, Mass.

To satisfy its industrial partners and avoid chewing up money needlessly, the new institute will be "run on a business model, with regular milestone reviews," says Edwin L. "Ned" Thomas, the MIT materials-science professor tapped as its head. It will have a staff of 40 MIT scientists from eight departments, plus 100-odd graduate students and visiting researchers from the Army and industry. Thomas admits that some wish-list items may never materialize. But that's okay -- the idea is to infuse army research with new thinking. So the Pentagon plans to announce starting in August, more research centers at other universities, focused on such areas as biotechnology and detecting landmines. In the same spirit, to supplement its \$1.2 billion research effort, the Army will funnel \$25 million to small, innovative companies that probably never dreamed of getting a Pentagon contract.

Shades of Green at Disney World now to reopen in March 2004

American Forces Press Service

The refurbished Armed Forces Recreation Center Shades of Green on Walt Disney World Resort won't open till March 1, 2004, instead of the originally planned Dec. 15, 2003, date.

Unexpected construction delays caused officials to move the date back 76 days, according to Peter F. Isaacs, chief operating officer at the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center. The Army serves as the executive agent, operating AFRCs for DoD.

"When we were on schedule, we began accepting guest reservations in December of last year," said Isaacs. "We sincerely regret the inconvenience this causes our customers and want to give them as much advance notice as possible. We are in the process of notifying those who have reservations and offering them other options."

Shades of Green General Manager Jim McCrindle personally signed more than 2,200 letters to guests already booked at Shades of Green, informing them of the delay. "We're genuinely sorry for the delay, but it was unavoidable," he said.

Guests who already hold reservations are offered three options:

- Keep the same vacation dates for 2004 at the same room rates guaranteed in 2003.
- Keep their vacation dates for 2003 at a comparable Disney Resort at the same room rates plus the applicable state tax of 11 percent.
- Cancel the existing reservation and receive a full refund.

The renovation and expansion project that began in April 2002 was driven by high demand that kept the original 288 rooms at or near 100 percent occupancy. The hotel is financially self-sufficient, and no taxpayer dollars are used in the operations or for the new construction. When it reopens, there will be 586 new or renovated rooms, 500 new covered parking spaces and 7,500 square feet for special events.

The current room rates of \$66 for E-1 through E-5 will only go up \$4 to \$70. Other rates are computed on a sliding scale based on rank.

The Armed Forces Recreation Center is open to DoD ID-card holders in all branches of military service: active duty and reserve components, DoD civilians, both military and civilian DoD retirees, and their families.

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"The information about our new opening date and reservations is on our web site," said McCrindle, adding, "The best way to make a reservation is to use the Web site as the phones tend to be overloaded."

For more information, access www.shadesofgreen.org or call toll free 1-888-593- 2242.

AT2003 (Con't)

Christina Graves, a 22-year-old mother of one from Hinesville and a specialist with the preventative medicine section of Forsyth's Company C, 148th Forward Support Battalion. Graves, who's a full-time accounting student, is widely known as Company C's "bug lady." It's her job to visit each unit in the field and rid its campsite of any and all insects. She also relocates four-legged critters that come looking for food.

Brooks Young, a staff sergeant from Kennesaw, is with Calhoun's Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 108th Armor. Young is the unit's motor section sergeant. It's his job to make sure the company's vehicles, from its Humvees to its six-ton trucks, and M1 Abrams tanks are maintained and ready for action. As a civilian he is a supervisor with the U.S. Transportation Security Agency at Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport. Conflict resolution is his game, and in counseling his soldiers he applies what he learns in dealing with the nation's air travelers.

Shelese Morgan, a private first class with Forsyth's Headquarters Company, 148th Forward Support Battalion, is an administrative specialist when she's in uniform. Out of uniform, the Cordele resident is an aspiring actress who lets nothing get in the way of accomplishing her mission, whether its at a desk or out in the woods.



These were only a few of the people and their stories discovered during annual training 2003.

First U.S. Army's Organization Day

**Pictures by Sgt. Maj. Thomas Gittemeier
And Staff Sgt. Mark Geiger**

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NCO/Soldier of the Year

Photos by Staff Sgt. Mark Geiger



FORSCOM and First U.S. Army NCO of the Year, Staff Sgt. Jamey Murphy, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Murphy represented First Army South which includes Ala., Fla., Ga., Ky., Miss., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



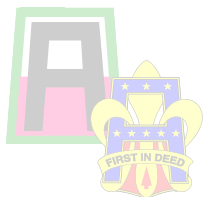
First U.S. Army Soldier of the Year is Spc. Daniel Jackan, Det. 1, Headquarters and Headquarters Support, 1/120th Field Artillery Battalion in Mosinee, Wis. Jackan represented First Army West which includes Ill., Ind., Minn., Ohio, Pa., Wis., and Mich.

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Arabic-Speaking Soldier (Con't)

While growing up in Egypt, I learned about the different Arabic cultures," Oliver said. "The Kuwaitis treat women differently. In Egypt women work in different career fields, while in Kuwait they are subordinate to the men. When speaking with them, I make an effort to get my point across without them looking at me as a woman." When Kuwaitis and others meet her for the first time, the 24-year-old Oliver said, "it's a shock for them at first, because they see me as an American, which I am. After they ask all their questions and find out I'm from Egypt, some of them say it's too much freedom for a girl to be in the Army out in a different country on her own." "My dad always encouraged me to do what is best," said Oliver, who spent her school years at boarding schools in Egypt and her summers around the world with her father. While at boarding school she said she had to make her own decisions, joining the Army, extending here, all of it might just be part of that, she said.



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Send us your stories or story ideas.

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